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# BILLINGE

## Urban District Council.

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### Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1915.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my report on the health and sanitary condition of the Urban District of Billinge, for the year 1915.

**POPULATION.**—The first matter to be dealt with is the estimation of the number of civilian persons assumed to have been living in the district at the middle of the year, which number may be taken as representing the mean population for the year, and which may form the basis for the calculation of the Birth and Death Rates. This civilian population has been estimated by the Registrar General for the year 1915, and the number given is 4,611.

The area of Billinge is 4,596 acres, and the density of the population 1.0 per acre. The number of deaths registered as having actually occurred within the district of Billinge during the year 1915 was 265, of which 209 occurred in the Workhouse Infirmary. Of the 265 deaths, 191 were those of non-residents, and which are to be deducted; while to this number four deaths are to be added as having occurred to residents outside the district.

The corrected number of deaths, therefore, is 78, of which 16 are deaths of persons “of no fixed abode,” and according to the instructions of the Registrar General are to be included in the statistics of the district in which they occur.

Of the 78 deaths, 15 occurred in infants under one year of age, 7 in children one year and under 5 years, 29 in persons 5 years and under 65 years, and the remaining deaths, which total 27, over the 65 years age-period.

The deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 15, equal to an annual infantile death-rate of 133.9 per 1,000 registered births. This infant death-rate is higher than the average for the decennium 1905-1914, when 116.3 was recorded, and also the rate of 127.66 recorded for last year. This increase is due to two deaths in infants “of no fixed abode,” the infantile death-rate being thus raised from 116.0 to 133.9, as recorded. The rate in England and Wales during last year was 105.

**BIRTHS.**—During the year 1915 there were registered as belonging to the district 112 births, 53 males and 59 females, against 68 males and 73 females as a corresponding total registered for 1914. The birth-rate for the district of Billinge is 24.28, as compared with 23.8 for England and Wales for 1914.

The number of births and the corresponding birth-rates of the separate localities in the district are shown in the following table:—

BIRTHS.			
		Males.	Females.
Billinge Chapel End	...	26	33
Billinge Higher End	...	22	25
Winstanley	...	5	1

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INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—During the year there were notified 13 cases of infectious disease, as against 14 for the previous year.

The following table shows the distribution of these diseases:—

			Billinge-C.E.	Billinge-H.E.	Winstanley
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	...	...	1	2	2
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	0	2	1
Measles ...	...	...	1	2	0
Diphtheria ...	...	...	1	0	0
Erysipelas ...	...	...	0	0	1

The principal epidemic diseases, namely, Smallpox, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup), Whooping Cough, Fever (comprising Enteric, Typhus, and Continued Fever), and Diarrhœa with Enteritis, gave rise to 6 deaths, representing 7.7 per cent. of the total deaths from all causes. The epidemic death-rate equals 1.30 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 1.58 for last year, and 1.21 for England and Wales for the same period.

BRONCHITIS AND PNEUMONIA were credited with 17 deaths, corresponding to 21.79 per cent. of the total deaths from all causes. The respiratory death-rates per 1,000 of the population for 1915 and 1914 are 3.68 and 3.36 respectively, and the mean for the corresponding years 1905-1914 is 2.49. Of the deaths occurring last year, Bronchitis caused 8 deaths, and Pneumonia and Pleurisy 9 deaths. With one exception—that being a child under one year—the deaths from Bronchitis occurred in persons over the 65 years age-period, while those from Pneumonia affected principally the intervening age-periods.

MEASLES.—Three cases of Measles were notified during the year, but no death was reported. This disease has been voluntarily notifiable in your district for some time, but the Public Health (Measles and German Measles) Regulations, 1915, make it now compulsory throughout England and Wales.

DIPHThERIA.—Only one case of this disease has been notified during the year. This occurred in Billinge Chapel End, in a male of 6 years, and ended in death.

SCARLET FEVER.—Three cases of Scarlet Fever have been notified, with no death. The whole of the attacks occurred during the second quinquennium of life, that period which statistical records show to be most susceptible to this disease. In two infected homes a distinct history of a febrile condition with throat symptoms could be elicited in members of the family, and I am of opinion that these were responsible for the infection in the notified cases.

ERYSIPELAS.—This occurred in a person who has had repeated attacks, thus showing that the protection afforded by one attack is but slight, and of short duration.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS & OTHER FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS.—Five cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year. The number of deaths registered in the district from Phthisis for the same period total 6, of which 4 occurred in persons of “no fixed abode.” The death-rate from this disease equals 1.30 per 1,000, as compared with .79 for last year, and .56, which is the mean for the decennial period 1905-1914. The marked increase in the Phthisis death-rates for the last two years is due to deaths in persons “of no fixed abode,” the rates being raised from .20 and .43 to .79 and 1.30 respectively. During the year all cases notified have been visited and their environmental conditions reported upon.

INQUESTS AND UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.—Two Inquests and 2 “Uncertified Deaths” have been recorded during the year, as against none in 1914.

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**DRAINS, SEWERS, AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.**—The sewers have not been flushed as freely as in former years, owing to the water supply being somewhat limited. At Overton and Rainford Road the sewers have been blocked, and at the latter place a manhole has been built to facilitate inspection in this area. Although no complaint has been reported by the Ribble Watershed Committee, the sewage field at New Houses has been complained of by persons residing in the district. To remedy the nuisance two cesspools have been built and 500 feet of subirrigation tiles have been laid, and from inspection the sewage appears to be now satisfactorily dealt with.

**CLEANSING AND SCAVENGING.**—This work is carried out by the Council's workmen, and any complaint in connection with it is always attended to without delay. However, some difficulty has been experienced this year in getting carts to remove the nightsoil; this, I think, has arisen from a failure to increase the wages for horse hire. Although no conversion of privy midden to water closet has been effected during the year, the sanitary conveniences as a whole have received more attention. Thirty-eight notices have been served during the year to abate nuisances, of which 29 have been remedied.

**DISINFECTION.**—This has been carried out as in the past, by means of chemical agents, no disinfecting apparatus being used.

The cottage at Brownlow has not been used during the year, and is only fit for an emergency case. Any expenditure by way of repairs to this building would be injudicious, as the building cannot be made to meet modern requirements.

**SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.**—There is only one licensed slaughter-house in the district, and this is situated in Billinge Higher End. The Council's Bye-laws have been carried out, and some repairs done to the yard space and building.

**DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.**—The milk supply of the district is obtained from farms situated within the district. These buildings are usually visited and inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and myself, and at Crookhurst Farm, Little Houghwood Farm, and Billinge Lane Farm we found that the ventilation and lighting have been greatly improved by raising the buildings. Again, at Mount Pleasant Farm, an old dilapidated, dark, and ill ventilated structure has been reconstructed.

**FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.**—The workshops, which number 14, have been regularly and systematically visited. With the exception of the sanitary convenience at 17, Greenslate Road, the workshops may be considered to be in a sanitary condition. No complaint has been received during the year from H.M. Inspector of Factories. Under Sec. 107, one outworkers' list has been received, and the work done was in the nature of making wearing apparel.

Trades for which registered workshops are used:—

Dressmaking	...	...	...	...	3
Clogging	...	...	...	...	2
Joiners	...	...	...	...	2
Shoeing Smiths	...	...	...	...	2
Boot Repairing	...	...	...	...	1

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.**—No special report has been sent during the year with regard to infectious disease. The lighting, ventilation, and cleanliness of these structures are satisfactory, and apart from the sanitary conveniences and playgrounds at St. Mary's, Birchley, I have nothing to report. The importance of conversion into water closets, both here and in connection with the two cottages which adjoin the building, has been considered, and the work will undoubtedly be effected when pecuniary calls are not so great as at present.



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**WATER SUPPLY.**—This is obtained from old quarry and mine workings within the district. At Upholland Road, Main Street, and Beacon Lane the 3in. main has been replaced by a 4in. one, in consequence of the supply to certain districts being limited from corrosion of the pipes. Although the supply has been constant during the year the supply obtainable during dry weather cannot be depended upon to meet the requirements of the district. I am sorry to report that the boring operations, which were carried out to a depth of 772 feet into the Millstone Grit at Shaley Brow, have proved unsuccessful. The Council have as yet not decided what future scheme to adopt to procure a supply, but negotiations with regard to the matter are in progress.

**HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.**—The housing conditions in parts of the district are unsatisfactory, and the property in some cases is of such a character that any attempt to put it into a habitable condition would be impossible.

Under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, ten houses have been reported upon, and the principal defects remedied.

In my last Annual Report overcrowding was mentioned, but this has been relieved by a decrease in our population from 5,060 to 4,611.

No new houses have been erected during the year, and the Housing Scheme which the Council contemplated has been deferred by reason of the economic conditions prevailing in the country.

The subjoined table records the work carried out during the year under the Housing Acts:—

No. of Dwelling-houses inspected under Sec. 17 of the Act of 1909	73
Number of Dwelling-houses considered unfit for human habitation ...	3
Number of Representations to Authority with a view to making Closing Orders ... ..	1
No. of Closing Orders made .. .. .	1
No. of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied without making Closing Orders ... ..	7
No. of Dwelling-houses put into a fit state of habitation after making Closing Orders ... ..	0
No. of Dwelling-houses demolished.. .. .	0
Death-rate ... ..	16.91
Birth-rate ... ..	24.28
Zymotic Death-rate ... ..	1.30

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. O. MATHER, M.D., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

February 28th, 1916.

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TABLE I.  
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1915 AND  
PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		Transferable Deaths		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett. Number.	Nett. Rate.	Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the district.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages	
									Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number.	Rate
1910	4750	148	...	31.15	112	23.57	49	0	17	115	63	13.26
1911	4924	148	...	30.08	233	47.32	155	2	21	142	80	16.24
1912	4950	179	139	28.08	217	43.83	160	3	15	108	57	11.51
1913	5000	163	137	27.4	222	44.4	166	1	17	125	57	11.1
1914	5060	171	141	27.86	282	55.73	218	2	18	127	94	18.5
1915	4611	130	112	24.28	265	57.47	191	4	15	134	78	16.91

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) 4,596.

Total population at all ages, 4,904 at census of 1911.

Number of inhabited houses 971

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TABLE 2.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1915.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT								TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.			Total Cases Removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of Patients Removed from this District.
	At Ages—Years.								Billinge- Chapel- End.	Billinge- Higher- End.	Winstanley.		
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.					
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas ... ..	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Scarlet Fever ... ..	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	5	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	1	2	2	0	0
Measles ... ..	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0
Totals ... ..	13	0	2	6	2	1	2	0	3	6	4	0	0

Isolation Hospital, Brownlow Cottage, Billinge Higher End.

Sanatoria, &amp;c., None.

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TABLE 3.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1915.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.									Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non-Residents in Public Institutions in the District.
		All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
All causes	Certified ...	76	15	4	3	4	2	9	14	25	209
	Uncertified ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Enteric Fever ...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	...	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria and Croup ...	...	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Phthisis, Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	...	6	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	27
Tuberculosis Meningitis ...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Tuberculous diseases ...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	...	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	8
Rheumatic Fever ...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningitis ...	...	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Organic Heart Disease ...	...	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	23
Bronchitis ...	...	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	42
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	9	1	0	2	0	0	2	3	1	12
Other diseases of respiratory organs ...	...	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	...	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
Appendicitis and Typhilitis ...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	...	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	5
Other accidents and diseases of											
Pregnancy and Parturition...	...	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	...	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Violent Deaths, excluding											
Suicide ...	...	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Suicide ...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Other Defined Diseases ...	...	26	2	3	1	2	0	0	5	13	77
TOTALS ...	...	78	15	4	3	4	2	9	14	27	209

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TABLE IV.

## INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1915.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
<b>All Causes—</b>													
Certified	...	...	...	4	0	1	1	6	2	2	5	0	15
Uncertified	..	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small-pox				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chicken-pox				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria and Croup				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Erysipelas				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculous Meningitis				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abdominal Tuberculosis				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Tuberculous Diseases				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Convulsions				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Laryngitis				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bronchitis				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Pneumonia (all forms)				0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Diarrhoea				0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Enteritis				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Gastritis				0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Syphilis				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rickets				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suffocation, overlying				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Injury at Birth				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Atelectasis				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Malformations				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Premature Birth				2	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	3
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus				2	0	1	0	3	1	0	1	0	5
Other Causes				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals				4	0	1	1	6	2	2	5	0	15

Nett Births in the Year { Legitimate 110  
 { Illegitimate 2

Nett Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 14 ; illegitimate infants, 1.



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## Sanitary Inspector's Report for the Year ending December 31st, 1915.

*To the Urban District Council of Billinge.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting a report of the sanitary work carried out during the year 1915.

The Medical Officer and myself have made at different times inspections throughout your district.

The ashpits have been attended to regularly, and the drains kept in proper order. In cases of infectious disease precautionary measures have been taken, disinfectants freely used, and, after instructions from Medical Attendant, houses fumigated.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are four bakehouses in the district, and these have been inspected and found to be kept in proper order.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.—There are two in the district, which have been inspected and found clean.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—One licensed.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.—None in the district.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.—There are 45 cowsheds. These have been inspected, and a great improvement has been found, both in the way they are linewashed and attended to.

During the year I have had better assistance from the farmers by their help in the removal of nightsoil.

Statutory Notices Served	...	...	...	38
Defective Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	16
Defective Drains	...	...	...	7
Defective Ventilation	...	...	...	1
Defective Spouting	...	...	...	4
Defective Yards	...	...	...	1
Defective Waste-pipe	...	...	...	5
Defective Cesspools	...	...	...	2
Defective Chimney Stacks	...	...	...	1
Defective House Walls	...	...	...	1
Remedied	...	...	29	



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Nuisances of a minor character have been dealt with by each owner, after having been interviewed.

Cowkeepers Registered	...	...	...	28
Cowsheds that have had attention	...	...	...	4
No. of Privy Middens	...	...	...	604
No. of Water Closets	...	...	...	51
Houses Closed	...	...	...	1
Houses Disinfected by Fumigation	...	...	...	7

New Property, Chapel End, none ; Higher End, none ; Winstanley, none.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RICHARD POWELL,  
Sanitary Inspector.

